



KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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****NOTE TO EDITORS/REPORTERS: NAEP SCORES ARE NOT REPORTED FOR DISTRICTS, SCHOOLS OR STUDENTS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF JEFFERSON CO., WHICH IS ONE OF 21 TRIAL URBAN DISTRICT ASSESSMENT PARTICIPANTS AND RECEIVES DISTRICT LEVEL SCORES THAT MUST BE OBTAINED DIRECTLY FROM THE DISTRICT.****

KENTUCKY STUDENTS CONTINUE TO OUTPERFORM NATIONAL PEERS

(FRANKFORT, KY.) -- Kentucky's public school students continue to outperform their peers nationally in 4th- and 8th-grade reading and in 4th grade mathematics, according to data released today from the 2015 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), also known as the Nation's Report Card.

However, Kentucky's 8th grade students scored below the national average in mathematics, mirroring a drop seen nationally among middle schoolers.

"While we are encouraged by our students' performance in reading, middle school math continues to be a concern and an area where we need additional emphasis going forward," said Commissioner of Education Stephen Pruitt. "I look forward to partnering with shareholders to seek solutions and ensure ALL students have the opportunities they need to achieve mathematics literacy, achieve at high levels and become college- and career-ready. We owe this to our students to ensure they can succeed in the career path of their choosing."

NAEP is administered to a random sampling of students in 4th and 8th grades. Not all students, schools or districts participate.

The 2015 data indicate:

- Only a handful of states scored higher than Kentucky in 4th grade and 8th grade reading. The average reading score of fourth-grade students in Kentucky was 228. This was significantly higher than the average of 221 for public school students across the United States. The average reading score of 8th grade students in Kentucky was 268. While down slightly from the 2013 NAEP administration, the drop is not considered statistically significant and was still higher than the average score of 264 for public school students across the nation.

2015 READING NAEP SCALE SCORES – KENTUCKY COMPARED TO OTHER STATES/JURISDICTIONS

	States/Jurisdictions Scoring Lower than Kentucky	States/Jurisdictions Scoring Higher than Kentucky	States/Jurisdictions Scoring About the Same as Kentucky
4th-Grade Reading	33	3	15
8th-Grade Reading	21	5	25

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NAEP READING SCALE SCORES – TRENDS SINCE 1998

	Kentucky 4th-Grade Scale Score	National Average 4th-Grade Scale Score	Kentucky 8th-Grade Scale Score	National Average 8th-Grade Scale Score
1998	218	213	262	261
2002	219	217	265	263
2003	219	216	266	261
2005	220	217	264	260
2007	222	220	262	261
2009	226	220	267	262
2011	225	220	269	264
2013	224	221	270	266
2015	228	221	268	264

- In 4th grade mathematics, the average score of Kentucky students was 242 – slightly higher than the average score of 241 for public schools students nationally. Fewer than ten states scored higher than Kentucky. The average mathematics score of eighth-grade students in Kentucky was 278 as compared with 281 nationally. Kentucky's eighth grade mathematics scores mirrored a three-point drop seen nationally.

2015 MATHEMATICS NAEP SCALE SCORES – KENTUCKY COMPARED TO OTHER STATES/JURISDICTIONS

	States/Jurisdictions Scoring Lower than Kentucky	States/Jurisdictions Scoring Higher than Kentucky	States/Jurisdictions Scoring About the Same as Kentucky
4th-Grade Mathematics	20	9	22
8th-Grade Mathematics	7	30	14

NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES – TRENDS SINCE 2000

	Kentucky 4th-Grade Scale Score	National Average 4th-Grade Scale Score	Kentucky 8th-Grade Scale Score	National Average 8th-Grade Scale Score
2000	219	224	270	272
2003	229	234	274	276
2005	231	237	274	278
2007	235	239	279	280
2009	239	239	279	282
2011	241	240	282	283
2013	241	241	281	284
2015	242	240	278	281

- Kentucky's results have remained steady over the past few years, with minor gains and losses, yet are up over time. Since 1998, Kentucky's 4th graders have gained 10 points on the NAEP reading assessment, and 8th graders have gained six points. Since 2000, Kentucky's 4th graders have gained 23 points on the NAEP mathematics assessment, and 8th graders have gained 8 points.

In 2015, all 50 states, along with the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools, participated in the NAEP reading and mathematics assessments.

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“The information included in the NAEP results provides useful information on how students are performing not only in Kentucky but across states,” Pruitt said. “While many states saw scores decrease this year – particularly at the 8th grade level – according to analysis at the national level, the data doesn’t support one specific reason why this happened.”

The NAEP grading scale ranges from 0 to 500. Students' performance on NAEP fits into one of four categories: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient or Advanced.

In Kentucky, in reading, 75 percent of 4th graders and 78 percent of 8th graders scored at the Basic level or above. In mathematics, 84 percent of 4th graders and 68 percent of 8th graders scored at the Basic level or above.

NAEP protects the confidentiality of students, teachers and schools that participate by not reporting individual student, teacher or school data. However, NAEP does provide results for major demographic groups, and states that meet NAEP reporting criteria are able to compare their results with both national results and the results of other states.

“When we look at a break down in scores by gender, free/reduced-price meal eligibility and ethnicity, we see some very modest improvements in closing the achievement gap in some areas, and in other areas are seeing it increase,” Pruitt said. “We have to find a way to consistently close the achievement gap and any learning opportunity gaps that may exist by increasing the achievement levels for all students. According to the 2015 TELL Kentucky Survey, six out of every 10 teachers in Kentucky say they need more professional learning on how to effectively close the achievement gaps in their classrooms, so making sure they get the help they need will be one place to start.”

NAEP READING SCALE SCORES BY GENDER

	4th Grade Male		4th Grade Female		8th Grade Male		8th Grade Female	
	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION
1998	216	210	219	215	256	253	269	268
2002	215	214	224	220	261	258	270	267
2003	215	213	223	220	261	256	272	267
2005	218	214	222	220	258	255	270	266
2007	219	216	226	223	257	256	266	266
2009	222	216	229	223	263	258	271	267
2011	223	217	227	223	264	259	274	268
2013	221	217	228	224	266	261	273	271
2015	226	218	230	225	263	259	273	269

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NAEP READING SCALE SCORES BY FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY

	4th Grade Eligible		4th Grade Not Eligible		8th Grade Eligible		8th Grade Not Eligible	
	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION
1998	206	195	227	226	251	245	270	268
2002	209	202	229	229	253	249	273	271
2003	209	201	229	229	257	246	273	271
2005	212	203	228	230	256	247	271	270
2007	212	205	234	232	252	247	271	271
2009	215	206	236	232	257	249	276	273
2011	216	207	236	234	260	251	278	275
2013	213	207	237	236	258	254	281	278
2015	219	209	241	237	259	253	279	276

NAEP READING SCALE SCORES BY RACE

	4th Grade White		4th Grade African American		8th Grade White		8th Grade African American	
	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION
1998	220	223	199	192	264	268	246	242
2002	222	227	199	198	267	271	248	244
2003	221	227	202	197	269	270	245	244
2005	222	228	203	199	266	269	248	242
2007	225	230	203	203	264	270	247	244
2009	228	229	204	204	269	271	249	245
2011	226	230	210	205	271	272	248	248
2013	227	231	204	205	272	275	247	250
2015	231	232	212	206	271	273	247	247

NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES BY GENDER

	4th Grade Male		4th Grade Female		8th Grade Male		8th Grade Female	
	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION
2000	220	225	219	223	271	273	269	271
2003	230	235	227	233	275	277	274	275
2005	233	238	230	236	275	278	273	277
2007	237	240	234	238	280	281	277	279
2009	240	240	238	238	281	283	278	281
2011	242	241	240	239	282	283	281	282
2013	242	242	241	241	281	284	280	283
2015	243	241	240	239	277	281	279	281

NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES BY FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEAL ELIGIBILITY

	4th Grade Eligible-		4th Grade Not Eligible -		8th Grade Eligible-		8th Grade Not Eligible -	
	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION
2000	207	208	230	235	255	253	280	283
2003	220	222	237	244	261	258	284	287
2005	224	225	240	248	264	261	283	288
2007	226	227	245	249	267	265	288	291

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2009	229	228	249	250	268	266	290	293
2011	232	229	251	252	271	269	294	295
2013	232	230	251	254	268	270	293	297
2015	234	229	255	253	268	268	291	296

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NAEP MATHEMATICS SCALE SCORES BY RACE

	4th Grade White-		4th Grade African American		8th Grade White		8th Grade African American	
	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION	KY	NATION
2000	223	233	196	203	272	283	250	243
2003	231	243	214	216	277	287	250	252
2005	234	246	217	220	276	288	255	254
2007	238	248	219	222	282	290	257	259
2009	241	248	220	222	282	292	258	260
2011	243	249	225	224	284	293	261	262
2013	244	250	224	224	283	293	260	263
2015	244	248	226	224	281	291	257	260

For more than 40 years, NAEP has been the country's only nationally representative and continuing survey of students' educational achievement. The assessment is authorized by Congress, directed by the National Center for Education Statistics and developed by Educational Testing Service of Princeton, New Jersey. Westat, Inc. of Rockville, Maryland, conducts sample selection and data collection.

More information is available from <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

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